

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 202938

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM - RATE OF PROGRAMMING

REF: USNATO 6865/151628Z DEC 75

1. WE AGREE THAT THE PROGRAMMING OF HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS WHICH ARE READY FOR CONSTRUCTION SHOULD NOT BE ARTIFICIALLY DELAYED. TO THE EXTENT SUCH PROJECTS ARE NOT NOW INCLUDED IN NMC PROPOSALS FOR SLICE 27, YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THEIR ADDITION TO THE SLICE WITHOUT REQUIRING COMPENSATORY DELETION OF OTHER PROJECTS. ALSO, AGREE THAT THE EARLY PROGRAMMING OF HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS SHOULD RESULT IN EARLIER BENEFICIAL OCCUPANCY AND OVERALL SAVINGS IN THE FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM AND THAT THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 02 STATE 202938

FUNDING FOR THE CURRENT SLICE GROUP IS A SEPARATE ISSUE.

2. SINCE THERE IS NO FIXED ANNUAL PROGRAMMING CEILING SPECIFIED IN THE FIVE-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT, NO

CHANGE IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES APPEARS NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE EARLY PROGRAMMING OF HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS. THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES BY THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE SUCH AS RATE OF OBLIGATION CONTROLS IF SUCH ACTION

IS REQUIRED TO GAIN UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT TO EARLY PROGRAMMING, SO LONG AS EXISTING NMC PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES ARE NOT ALTERED.

3. ALTHOUGH UNDER PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS; WE SHOULD AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY ATTEMPT TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING DURING THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT FAVOR ANY MOVE TO SHIFT THE FOCUS FOR PROGRAMMING FROM THE MILITARY TO THE POLITICAL (INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE) ARENA, BECAUSE THIS MIGHT RESULT IN APPROVAL OF LOWER PRIORITY BUT POLITICALLY DESIRABLE PROJECTS. FYI. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT VIEWS IN REFTEL AS CONFIRMED PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE ARE SOUND, WE DOUBT THAT ANY STATEMENT BY US THAT "RUNNING OUT OF MONEY BEFORE THE END OF THE COST-SHARING PERIOD WILL NOT BE USED AS THE PRIME RATIONALE FOR GETTING MORE" WILL BE CONVINCING TO THE MEMBER NATIONS WHICH ARE DETERMINED THAT THE CEILING SHOULD NOT BE RAISED, NOR TO THE NATO MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH WILL NOT PROGRAM IN A WAY THAT WILL MAKE A MORATORIUM ON NEW PROGRAMMING INEVITABLE. END FYI.

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